

***Prisopus wolfgangjunki* n.sp., a new species of *Prisopus*  
ST. FARGENAU & AUDINET SERVILLE, 1827, from Brazil  
(Phasmatodea: Prisopodidae)\***

by

O. Zompro

Dr. Oliver Zompro, Max-Planck-Institut für Limnologie, AG Tropenökologie, August Thienemannstr. 2, 24306 Plön, Germany; e-mail: o.zompro@sungaya.de  
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**Abstract**

A new species of Phasmatodea: Prisopodidae is described from Brazil. *Prisopus wolfgangjunki* n.sp. is characterized by the uniformly yellow abdominal sternites and the lack of prominent posterior spines on the head. Types are housed in the Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden, Germany.

Keywords: **Phasmatodea, Prisopodidae, *Prisopus wolfgangjunki* n.sp., Brazil.**

**Resumo**

Uma nova espécie de Phasmatodea: Prisopodidae é descrita para o Brasil. *Prisopus wolfgangjunki* n.sp. é caracterizada pelos esternitos abdominais uniformemente amarelos e a ausência de espinhos proeminentes posteriores na cabeça. Os tipos estão depositados no Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Alemanha.

**Introduction**

The genus *Prisopus* ST. FARGEAU & AUDINET SERVILLE, 1827 contains some of the most striking neotropical phasmids. The species feature a strongly lichen like appearance, which is increased not only by the colour, but also by the lateral appendices of the body and extremities. The ventral surface is smooth and flat, and in earlier times it was believed that these insects lived in streams and attach themselves to stones (MURRAY 1866). Actually they live on trees. The genus is distributed in Central- and the Northern half of South America. A new species is described below.

***Prisopus wolfgangjunki* n.sp.**

*Prisopus eckardtae* GÜNTHER, in litt. (unpublished name, invalid).

Material examined: Holotype (female): Tacana, Brasilien WAEHNER leg.; Y. preto S. WAEHNER leg.; 1939 1. Paratype (female): San Piesdai 2/38 Esp. Santo Solimois.

Both, holotype and paratype are housed in the Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden, Germany, (SMTD).

Diagnosis: Characterized within the genus by the lack of posterior spines on the head and the

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\*Dedicated to Prof. Dr. Wolfgang J. Junk on the occasion of his 60th anniversary.

uniformly yellow abdominal sternites.

Description: ♀. Large for the genus. General colour greyish brown.

Head strikingly flat and round, with broad and flat impression medially and six parallel rows of up to five tubercles in the posterior half. Between eyes and antennae is a larger tubercle and a smaller one posteriorly. Between the antennae is a rhombic impression and behind it a darker, raised area. Eyes projecting less than hemispherically. Scapus rounded rectangular, strikingly flat, with broad, flattened lateral margins; pedicellus half as long and two thirds as wide. Following segments increasingly elongated.

Thorax. Pro- and mesothorax with large lobes attached to sterna ventrolaterally. Pronotum transverse rectangular, lacking distinct anterior and posterior margin, with several tubercles and distinct median line. Prothoracic gland positioned in anterolateral edges. Episternum I small, triangular, epimerum I broad, trapezoidal, margin raised ventrally. Prosternum flat, smooth, uniformly yellow. Mesonotum transverse, posterior half with a raised triangle between bases of tegmina. Episternum bearing several tubercles, ventral margin projecting. Mesosternum yellow, smooth, shiny. Metasternum surrounded by a broad, black line. Abdominal sternite I elongated triangular, surrounded by a narrow, black line, with broad, dark median line.

Tegmina projecting beyond middle of abdominal segment VI, apical third light brown in colour. Alae projecting beyond middle of abdominal segment IX. Anterior part of alae strongly sclerotized, with irregular dark spots, apical third brownish. Anal fan transparent, all transverse veins surrounded by a translucent brown area.

In profemora interodorsal and exteroventral carinae strongly lamellate. Edges strikingly bristled, ventral bristles much longer. Dorsal carina flat in basal half and strongly raised in apical half. Ventral carina semicircular, with eight blunt teeth. Exterodorsal carina small, but distinct, interoventral carina produced as a small ridge. Profemora with a long, leaf-shaped appendix ventroapically. Protibiae with distinct lamelliform carinae dorsally and ventrally, edges undulating, completely covered by very long bristles. Probasitarsus flat, dilated laterally; second tarsomere half as long and distinctly narrower, raised medially; next two segments decreasing in length and width; terminal segment as long as previous three combined, dilated posteriorly. Mesofemora also with strongly lamellate carinae anteriorly and posteriorly, margin of dorsal one undulate, with blunt teeth, ventral one with seven large, saw-like teeth. Mesotibiae with strongly undulate dorsal and raised, but straight, ventral carinae. Metafemora one third longer than mesofemora, structured as mesofemora. Metatibiae with short, saw-like teeth dorsally and prominent teeth ventrally. A large, claw-shaped spine present ventroapically. Edges of meso- and metafemora and -tibiae strongly bristled. Meso- and metatarsi as protarsi.

Median segment slightly longer than metanotum, about as long as abdominal segment II. II to VII of similar length to each other, flat, shiny dorsally. II to V without lateral expansions, sternites II to V uniformly yellow. VI to VII with large, triangular lobes laterally, these lobes undulated exteriorly. VII slightly wider than previous segments. VIII two thirds as long as VII; VIII to X decreasing in length and width, also with large appendices laterally. Posterior margin of X with a broad notch medially, supraanal plate short, but very broad. Cerci elongated, longer than VIII, flat and acute. Subgenital plate broad, flat, concave posteriorly.

Lengths (mm), HT, ♀/PT, ♀: Total: 90.0/86.9; head: 8.9/8.7; antennae: broken off/38+; pronotum: 5.3/5.0; mesonotum: 6.8/covered by tegmina; metanotum: 5.7/covered by tegmina; median segment: 8.1/covered by tegmina; tegmina: 45.0/45.0; alae: 63.0/57.0; profemora: 11.4/11.2; protibiae: 8.2/8.0; protarsi: 7.5/7.2; mesofemora: 11.1/11.1; mesotibiae: 9.0/8.9; mesotarsi: 7.2/6.3; metafemora: 16.5/16.4; metatibiae: 13.5/13.0; metatarsi: 9.2/9.1.

Name: This striking species is dedicated to Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Junk (Max-Planck-Institute, Plön, Germany), as an acknowledgment for his great support to the author during the last few years.

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Fig. 1:  
*Prisopus wolfgangjunki* n.sp., dorsolateral aspect.



Fig. 2:  
*Prisopus wolfgangjunki* n.sp., ventral aspect.